CIVIL WAR™

WHOSE SIDE...ARE YOU ON?

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A MARVEL COMICS® EVENT IN SEVEN PARTS

THE MARVEL UNIVERSE IS CHANGING. AFTER THE RASH ACTIONS OF FOUR YOUNG HEROES CAUSE THE DESTRUCTION OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT, A SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT IS PASSED, REQUIRING ALL THOSE POSSESSING PARANORMAL ABILITIES TO REGISTER WITH THE GOVERNMENT. REACTION AMONG THE SUPER HEROES IS SPLIT DOWN THE MIDDLE, WITH AN AWOL CAPTAIN AMERICA ON ONE SIDE AND A PRO-REGISTRATION IRON MAN ON THE OTHER. AFTER A BRUTAL BATTLE, MANY HEROES ARE LEFT INJURED, DISCOURAGED AND QUESTIONING WHERE THEY STAND. AS SPIDER-MAN DEFECTS FROM THE PRO-REGISTRATION SIDE, IRON MAN REVEALS THE NEWEST ELEMENT OF HIS PLAN: A MASSIVE PRISON COMPLEX LOCATED INSIDE THE EXTRADIMENSIONAL NEGATIVE ZONE!

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A Superhuman Registration Act has been passed which requires all people possessing paranormal abilities to register with the government. Those who do not register are considered criminals. Some heroes, such as Iron Man, see this as a natural evolution of the role of superhumans in society and a reasonable request. Others view the Act as an assault on their civil liberties. Captain America currently leads an underground resistance movement against the new law.

After a brutal battle, Bill Foster--the anti-registration hero known as Goliath--has been killed. Other members of Captain America's resistance have been captured and brought to the pro-registration faction's holding facility in the Negative Zone. Both sides have retreated in order to regroup and plan their next move.

Many heroes have been left injured, discouraged, and questioning where they stand. While some of Captain America's allies have joined with Tony Stark, Spider-Man has left the pro-registration side. Jack O'Lantern and the Jester--members of a newer and more vicious Thunderbolts team--were sent to track down Spider-Man. After nearly killing him, the villains were gunned down by the Punisher, who took Spider-Man's battered body back to one of Captain America's safehouses. The resistance now has Frank Castle on their side.

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S.H.I.E.L.D. BASE, ARIZONA:

CAN WE STILL CALL HIM HERCULES WHEN THERE'S *ALREADY* A HERCULES OUT THERE?

FORTUNATELY, GREEK GODS AREN'T ESPECIALLY *LITIGIOUS*, COMMANDER HILL. BESIDES, ALL THOSE GOLIATHS OVER THE YEARS NEVER BOTHERED *ME*.

THE AVENGERS IN NEW YORK AND THESE CHAMPIONS IN CALIFORNIA GIVE THE INITIATIVE A NICE SENSE OF BALANCE, DOCTOR PYM.

AND MAKING HERMES A FORMER TRACK STAR WAS A STROKE OF GENIUS. WAS THAT YOU OR REED RICHARDS?

ACTUALLY, THAT WAS TONY STARK. HE ALSO CAME UP WITH THE IDEA OF MAKING APHRODITE A *FORMER SUPER-MODEL.*

STAND CLEAR OF THE TRACK, PLEASE...

WHAT KIND OF SPEED IS HERMES HITTING NOW?

MACH ONE IF HE HASN'T EATEN, BUT WE'LL HAVE HIM AT MACH THREE BY THE TIME WE GO PUBLIC.

THE CHAMPIONS IN *CALIFORNIA*, THOSE MORMON HEROES IN *UTAH* AND THE SPACEKNIGHTS HEADING FOR *CHICAGO.*

BUT WHO DID WE HAVE FOR *IOWA* AGAIN? ARE YOU SENDING THE *FORCE WORKS* PEOPLE OVER THERE?

PENDING *BACKGROUND CHECKS* AND THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES GIVING THEIR *ABSOLUTE APPROVAL.*

THE PUBLIC NEEDS SUPER-PEOPLE THEY CAN *COUNT* ON.

WE DO THIS *RIGHT* OR *NOT AT ALL.*

PROBLEM WITH *POSEIDON*, DOCTOR PYM. I THINK ONE OF THE GUYS FED HIM THE WRONG STUFF AND HE'S TURNED A FUNNY COLOR. COULD YOU COME TAKE A LOOK?

NO PROBLEM. WOULD YOU EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT, COMMANDER?

MA'AM.

THE BAXTER BUILDING:

*REED, IT'S TONY. HOW'S THE THOR CYBORG'S REPROGRAMMING COMING ALONG? HAVE YOU FOUND OUT WHAT THE **PROBLEM** WAS?*

MM. A LITTLE LATE FOR *BILL FOSTER*, BUT THE BLOCKER IN HIS HEAD SHOULD STOP HIM KILLING ANYONE WHEN WE GO FOR *THE BIG PUSH.*

WHAT'S THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND? I'VE BEEN IN SURGERY *THIRTY-SIX HOURS STRAIGHT.*

RICHARDS

*JUST LIKE YOU PREDICTED ON YOUR **PROBABILITY MAP**: CRIME FIGURES HAVEN'T BEEN THIS GOOD SINCE EISENHOWER WAS IN OFFICE.*

*CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW BORING IT'S GOING TO BE ONCE THE **NEW HEROES** ARE UP AND RUNNING TOO?*

BORING'S GOOD, TONY. BORING MEANS LITTLE KIDS AREN'T GETTING **BUILDINGS** PUSHED ON TOP OF THEM.

HOW DID YOUR CALL WITH THE PRESIDENT GO?

I JUST READ HIM THE RIOT ACT AND TOLD HIM I WOULDN'T PLAY A PART IN OUR BIG FINALE UNLESS I HAD AN ABSOLUTE GUARANTEE THAT SUE AND JOHNNY WOULDN'T FACE *ARREST*.

WHAT DID HE SAY?

HE SAID HE'D GIVE US *TWELVE* IMMUNITIES, BUT EVERYONE ELSE WOULD BE OPEN TO *PROSECUTION*.

RICHARDS

LEAVE THE REST TO ME.

I'M SEEING HIM FOR DINNER ANYWAY.

THE BAXTER BUILDING:

PUNISHER TO CAPTAIN AMERICA: JUST PASSED LEVEL THIRTY-EIGHT AND NONE OF THEIR ALARMS HAVE REGISTERED.

ONLY TWO MORE STORIES AND WE'RE *IN* THERE, CAP.

*CAREFUL, CASTLE. YOU EVEN **BRUSH AGAINST** ONE OF THOSE THINGS AND THE WHOLE SYSTEM ATTACKS YOU AS AN INVADING ORGANISM.*

*SUE SAID REED BASED THEIR SECURITY ON THE **HUMAN IMMUNE SYSTEM** THIS MONTH.*

RELAX. NOTHING CAN READ ME WHILE I'M WEARING THE *DAMPERS*. I'M INVISIBLE TO ALL CAMERAS AND TRIP-BEAMS.

*WHERE THE HELL DID YOU LAY YOUR HANDS ON THIS KIND OF HARDWARE **ANYWAY**?*

LET'S JUST SAY TONY STARK'S *WAREHOUSE MANAGER* SHOULD INVEST IN *BIGGER LOCKS*.

CAPTAIN AMERICA'S SAFEHOUSE:

OKAY, I'M IN THEIR *DATA-HOUSE.*

GOOD. NOW I NEED EVERYTHING YOU CAN FIND ON THIS NUMBER 42 COMPLEX: THIS BIG SUPER-PRISON WHERE THEY'RE HOLDING OUR GUYS IN THE NEGATIVE ZONE.

I NEED THE ***SIZE,*** HOW MUCH SPACE WE'LL HAVE TO ***MOVE*** AROUND AND HOW MANY ***ACCESS POINTS*** THEY'VE BUILT. THINK YOU CAN HANDLE THAT WITHOUT SHOOTING SOMEBODY IN THE ***HEAD?***

HILARIOUS.

UH-OH.

WHAT'S UP?

THIS COMPOUND'S GOT MORE PROTECTION THAN ANYTHING I EVER SAW. WE'RE GONNA NEED A LOT MORE THAN YOUR TEAM OF ***GRUNTS*** TO SPRING THESE GUYS.

I'M ***ON*** IT, CASTLE.

JUST KEEP *TYPING.*

ATLANTIS:

THANK YOU FOR SEEING ME ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE, NAMOR. I KNOW YOUR COURT PREFERS TO FOLLOW ***ROYAL PROTOCOLS,*** BUT WE HAVEN'T GOT MUCH ***TIME.***

THE REBEL TEAM'S RAID IS PLANNED FOR TONIGHT AND EVERYONE ELSE HAS TURNED US DOWN. HAVING YOU ONSIDE COULD MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ***WINNING*** AND ***LOSING.***

YOUR MAJESTY.

WHAT?

I BELIEVE THAT'S THE CORRECT TERM WHEN YOU'RE ADDRESSING A FOREIGN ***DIGNITARY,*** MRS. RICHARDS.

DON'T PLAY GAMES, NAMOR. THIS IS THE GRAVEST CRISIS WE'VE EVER FACED. THEY'VE ISSUED A ***SUPERHUMAN DRAFT,*** AND THEY'RE ***IMPRISONING*** PEOPLE WHO DON'T COMPLY.

CAN YOU BELIEVE THEY'RE ACTUALLY RECRUITING ***SUPER-VILLAINS*** TO BRING US IN?

YOU TALK LIKE IT *MATTERS*, SUSAN. POWER STRUGGLES ON YOUR LITTLE MOUND ARE AS MEANINGLESS TO ME AS THE TIDES ARE TO *YOU*.

THE DEATH OF MY COUSIN NAMORITA WAS ALL THAT MATTERED IN THIS DEBACLE, AND HER ASSAILANT HAS BEEN DEALT WITH *PRIVATELY*.

BUT CAP'S ONE OF YOUR OLDEST *FRIENDS*. YOU'VE KNOWN HIM LONGER THAN *ANYONE*.

AND WHERE IS THIS FRIEND *NOW?* TRYING TO MAKE DEALS WITH *THE X-MEN* OR *STEPHEN STRANGE* WHILE HE SENDS YOU HERE WITH YOUR *PUPPY-DOG EYES?*

TELL THIS *NEW MASTER* OF YOURS I HAVE NO INTEREST IN HELPING A MAN WHO WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR *UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP*.

WHAT ARE YOU *TALKING* ABOUT? WE DON'T *HAVE* A RELATIONSHIP.

I CAN FEEL YOUR *HEARTBEAT* THROUGH THE WATER, MRS. RICHARDS...

...AND IT TELLS A VERY DIFFERENT STORY FROM THE *LIES* UPON YOUR *LIPS*.

SO WHAT KIND OF *NUMBERS* ARE WE LOOKING AT, FALCON?

NAMOR SAYS NO, WOLVERINE WON'T BREAK RANKS WITH THE X-MEN, AND DOCTOR STRANGE IS STILL OUT OF *REACH*, CAP.

THAT SAID, THE BLACK PANTHER WAS VERY UPSET ABOUT THE WHOLE *BILL FOSTER* THING AND GAVE ME HIS ASSURANCE THAT BOTH HE AND STORM WOULD *HAVE OUR BACKS.*

HOW YOU DOING, SPIDER-MAN? FEELING *BETTER?*

NOT TOO SHABBY, CAGE. STILL A LITTLE WOOZY FROM THE JACK O'LANTERN GAS BOMB, BUT I'VE GOTTA SAY I'M *PSYCHED* BEING BACK IN MY OLD COSTUME.

IT GIVES ME A *GOOD FEELING* TOO, MAN. LIKE THINGS ARE FINALLY GETTING BACK TO NORMAL. KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING?

JEEZ. YOU TWO WANNA GET A ROOM?

OOH! WHAT'S UP, HONEY? YOU *JEALOUS?*

OKAY, LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS: THE PUNISHER GOT US ALL THE PLANS ON THE NEGATIVE ZONE PRISON, AND THE LAYOUT OF THE PLACE CAN BE FOUND IN THIS THREE-DIMENSIONAL SCHEMATIC.

OSTENSIBLY, IT'S FOR HIGH-RISK SUPER-VILLAINS, BUT AS YOU KNOW, REBEL SUPER HEROES ARE BEING HELD THERE TOO.

STARK, PYM AND RICHARDS ARE PLANNING PUPPET HEROES IN EVERY STATE AND FIFTY PORTALS LEADING DIRECTLY FROM THEIR LOCAL PENS INTO THIS HUGE COLLECTIVE SUPER-PRISON.

SO FAR, ONLY TWO OF THESE DOORWAYS HAVE BEEN FINISHED, AND WE OBTAINED THE *CODES* FOR THE ONE ON RYKER'S ISLAND.

BUT WE NEED TO MOVE FAST. OUR INTEL SUGGESTS THEY'RE PLANNING A HUGE ASSAULT WITH S.H.I.E.L.D. AND THE THUNDERBOLTS, SO TONIGHT IS OUR ABSOLUTE *LAST OPPORTUNITY.*

SPIDER-MAN, WE KNOW YOU'RE NOT IN THE BEST OF SHAPE RIGHT NOW, SO NOBODY'S GOING TO JUDGE YOU IF YOU SIT THIS ONE OUT.

NOT A CHANCE, CAP. I NEED TO DO *SOMETHING* TO MAKE UP FOR ALL THE BAD MOVES I'VE MADE LATELY.

BESIDES, NUMBERS BEING WHAT THEY ARE, I THINK YOU'RE GONNA NEED EVERY EXTRA PAIR OF *HANDS.*

ACTUALLY, NUMBERS MIGHT BE A LITTLE BETTER THAN WE *ANTICIPATED*. GOLDBUG? PLUNDERER? YOU WANT TO COME OUT AND TELL EVERYONE WHAT WE *DISCUSSED?*

WHAT?

WHAT THE HELL IS *GOING ON* HERE, DIAMONDBACK?

YOU GUYS AIN'T THE *ONLY* ONES SCARED WE'RE HEADING FOR A POLICE STATE, CAPTAIN. THE SUPER-CRIMINAL COMMUNITY'S MORE CONCERNED ABOUT STARK'S PLANS THAN *ANYONE*.

WE JUST CAME BY TO LET YOU KNOW WE'RE HERE IF YOU *NEED* US. ONLY FAIR IF *IRON MAN'S* GOT SUPER-VILLAINS ON *HIS* SIDE, RIGHT? WHADDAYA SAY?

WHAT?

YOU MURDEROUS PIECE OF *TRASH*...

UNGH!

THEY WERE *BAD GUYS*, CAP. THIEVES AND KILLERS...

SHUT UP!

FIGHT, YOU COWARD!

NOT AGAINST YOU.

GET HIM OUT OF HERE! AND THROW HIS GUNS IN THE INCINERATOR! I MUST HAVE BEEN OUT OF MY MIND TO GIVE THAT ANIMAL A SHOT ON THIS TEAM!

WELL, HE LASTED ABOUT TEN MINUTES MORE THAN I EXPECTED.

I WONDER WHY HE WOULDN'T HIT CAP.

ARE YOU KIDDING ME? CAP'S PROBABLY THE REASON HE WENT TO VIETNAM. SAME GUY, DIFFERENT WAR.

WRONG.

FRANK CASTLE IS INSANE.

STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT:

I HOPE YOU LIKE THE GARDENS WE BUILT IN THE *CHILDREN'S HONOR*, MIRIAM.

THEY'RE *BEAUTIFUL*, TONY. SO NICE TO HAVE A PLACE WHERE WE CAN COME AND SIT--Y'KNOW--WHENEVER WE'RE FEELING *LONELY* AND STUFF.

I REALLY WANT TO THANK YOU FOR ALL THIS. NOT JUST THE MONEY. I MEAN, ALL THE WORK YOU'VE DONE TO PUSH MY *BIG IDEA*.

I *HATE* HOW MUCH IT'S COST YOU PERSONALLY. I NEVER WOULD HAVE *ASKED* IF I'D KNOWN YOUR LIVES WOULD GET TORN APART LIKE THIS.

WE KNEW WHAT WE WERE *TAKING ON*, MIRIAM. THERE'S NO SHAME IN MAKING ENEMIES IF IT MEANS MAKING PEOPLE *SAFER*.

DR. STRANGE'S SANCTUARY, THE NORTH POLE:

HOW LONG SINCE YOU HAVE EATEN NOW, STEPHEN STRANGE?

JUST A LITTLE WATER SINCE THE CIVIL WAR BEGAN, UATU.

ARE YOU NOT TEMPTED TO SIMPLY *END* IT? WITH YOUR GREAT POWER, YOU COULD STOP THIS QUARREL WITH A *GESTURE* OR A *WHISPER*.

PRECISELY WHY I MUST REMAIN ABOVE THE FRAY.

THERE IS NO RIGHT OR WRONG IN THIS DEBATE. IT IS SIMPLY A MATTER OF *PERSPECTIVE*, AND IT IS NOT MY PLACE TO INFLUENCE THE EVOLUTION OF *THE SUPERHUMAN ROLE*.

AS A WATCHER, I AM *MORE* THAN FAMILIAR WITH SUCH DILEMMAS.

BUT TELL ME: WHY ARE YOU FASTING IF YOU FAVOR NO SIDE? WHAT OUTCOME ARE YOU *MEDITATING* FOR?

WHICHEVER VICTORY IS BEST FOR *ALL MANKIND*, MY FRIEND...

...AND SPILLS THE LEAST AMOUNT OF BLOOD *TONIGHT*.

RYKER'S ISLAND PENITENTIARY:

AARGH!

OOF!

URKK!

THANK YOU, SUSAN. I THINK IT'S SAFE TO MAKE US *VISIBLE AGAIN* NOW THAT WE'RE THROUGH. PANTHER, WHAT'S THE SITUATION WITH PRISON *SECURITY?*

NEUTRALIZED FROM TOP TO BOTTOM, CAPTAIN--THOUGH I HATE TO THINK HOW LONG IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN IF WE HADN'T HAD MISTER FANTASTIC'S *BLUEPRINTS.*

THANKS AGAIN FOR COMING THROUGH LIKE THIS, T'CHALLA. WE KNOW IT'S IN WAKANDA'S BEST INTERESTS TO STAY *NEUTRAL,* BUT...

FORGET ABOUT IT. OUR FRIEND GOLIATH WOULD STILL BE ALIVE IF MY WIFE AND I HAD TAKEN A STAND WHEN YOU *FIRST* ASKED US FOR HELP.

WHAT'S WRONG?

MY SPIDER-SENSE IS GOING OFF THE *SCALE!* SERIOUSLY, THIS IS *DEFCON ONE!*

I'M NOT SURPRISED.

YOU'VE JUST WALKED INTO ANOTHER TRAP, CAPTAIN: EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES PLUS EARTH'S MIGHTIEST VILLAINS.

WE'VE HAD A MOLE ON YOUR SIDE FOR OVER A WEEK AND YOU'RE OUTNUMBERED TEN TO ONE. WOULD NOW BE A GOOD TIME TO TALK ABOUT A SURRENDER?

I DON'T *THINK* SO. IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT *TIGRA*, WE KNEW *ALL ABOUT HER*, IRON MAN.

WHAT?

YOU'RE NOT THE *ONLY* ONE WITH A SPY IN YOUR *TEAM*.

IMPOSSIBLE. THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO KNEW ABOUT TIGRA WERE MYSELF, HANK AND REED.

I'M *SORRY*, TONY.

HANK? WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU BELIEVED IN THIS MORE THAN ANY OF US...

OH, BUT *I'M* NOT HANK. DOCTOR PYM'S BEEN DRUGGED AND UNCONSCIOUS SINCE I KNOCKED HIM OUT AND REPLACED HIM BACK IN *ARIZONA* THIS MORNING.

I'M *HULKLING*, THE *YOUNG AVENGERS'* RESIDENT *SHAPE-CHANGER.*

OH DEAR GOD.

IF HE COULD MIMIC HANK'S VOICE AND RETINAL PATTERN HE'S HAD FULL AUTHORITY TO DO WHATEVER *WE* CAN...

THE CELLS.

I BELIEVE THIS *EVENS THE ODDS* A LITTLE...

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NOW CLOSE YOUR EYES, GENTLEMEN.

THIS MIGHT *HURT*.

TO BE CONCLUDED...

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ZOMBIE